

# Mid-Atlantic States Food Systems Education Center at Pennsville

Pennsville School District  
30 Church Street  
Pennsville, NJ 08070

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2004  
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## Farmers and Farms in South Jersey: Planning for Agriculture in Your Community **Municipal and county officials, planners, farmers and public invited to attend**

Clayton, N.J. -- Are you a farmer in a rapidly growing municipality? Are you a member of a municipal community with rising property taxes? Are you a township or town council, planning board, or environmental commission member dealing with land planning? Are you a county, state or township official dealing with right-to-farm issues? If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions you should attend "Farms and Farmers: Planning for Agriculture in Your Community." This workshop will be held on Thursday evening, October 14, 2004, at the Mid-Atlantic States Food Systems Education Center at Pennsville, located in the Pennsville School District Building at 30 Church Street, Pennsville, New Jersey. This facility is accessible from Route 295 and the New Jersey Turnpike at Exit 1, just south of the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

An invited panel of experts with experience in planning and agricultural issues will be led by New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Charles M. Kuperus, who will discuss the importance of maintaining a strong agricultural sector in Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester Counties. Brian Schilling, Associate Director of the Rutgers Food Policy Institute, will present the latest census information about agriculture in the three-county area and identify and address some commonly held misconceptions. Michael Brooks, a young Salem County farmer, will discuss challenges and opportunities for farmers in South Jersey and identify key areas of concern and creativity.

Michael Sullivan, a seasoned professional planner and landscape architect with Clarke Caton Hintz who has vast practical experience and was directly involved in the well-known effort in Chesterfield Township, will open the second half of the program. The line-up also includes Monique Purcell, Director of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources, who will discuss the department's Agricultural Smart Growth Plan. Helen Heinrich, a professional planner specializing in rural planning issues, will share her views about the model right-to-farm and other ordinances, and Rich Nieuwenhuis, President of New Jersey Farm Bureau, will conclude the program with a summary of the information presented and suggestions about how it might be applied.

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Farmers/Add One

Retired judge Paul R. Porreca has graciously agreed to moderate the program. All are welcome to attend this event at no charge. For additional information, including a detailed program agenda and directions, please contact Jerry Frecon at (856) 307-6450 or [frecon@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:frecon@aesop.rutgers.edu) or Claire Homitzky at (201) 792-5416 or [homitzky@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:homitzky@aesop.rutgers.edu). The agenda and directions are also available on the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County web site at <http://gloucester.rce.rutgers.edu>.

The program is sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic States Food Systems Education Center at Pennsville in conjunction with the New Jersey League of Municipalities, N.J. Department of Agriculture, N.J. Farm Bureau, the Rutgers EcoComplex, the N.J. Conservation Foundation, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, the Rutgers Food Policy Institute and the Rutgers Food Innovation Center.

Key Information about the Workshop

Date: October 14, 2004

Time: 6:00 -9:30 p.m.

Place: The Mid-Atlantic States Food Systems Education Center at Pennsville in the Pennsville School District Building\*, 30 Church Street (near the Riverview Inn), Pennsville.

Fee: None

Light refreshments will be served.

\*This building is handicapped accessible; please call the Center at Pennsville at (856) 540-6203 to make arrangements prior to the event.

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